

The fictional character of **Johnny Kaw** was created by Kansas State University horticulture professor George Filing in 1955 as part of Manhattan's centennial celebration. Johnny's mythical adventures included carving the Mississippi River, digging the Grand Canyon with Finn McCool, building the Rocky Mountains, and inventing sunflowers.

These stories were first published in the *Manhattan Mercury*, and then collected into a book. A Kansas State art professor, Elmer Tomash, drew illustrations to accompany the text, and conceived of the massive sculpture of Johnny, which was built in 1966 and still stands in Manhattan City Park.

